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CHARLES F. BRANNAN
Secretary of Agriculture

(Biographical Material)

Charles Franklin Brannan of Colorado was sworn in as the 14th Secretary of Agriculture on June 2, 1948, after serving four years as Assistant Secretary. President Truman appointed him to his new post on May 24, and the Senate confirmed the appointment May 28.

Secretary Brannan throughout his career has dealt with problems involving natural resources. His private law practice in Denver from 1929 until 1935 included considerable work in the field of irrigation and mining law. In 1935, as Assistant Regional Attorney in the Resettlement Administration, he arranged the purchase of drought-stricken land in the Mountain States. Between 1937 and 1941, as Regional Attorney in the Department's Office of the Solicitor, he aided in the formation of irrigation districts and other cooperative projects undertaken by farmers to help solve their land and water problems. Mr. Brannan administered a program of water facilities loans as well as supervised credit for individual families from November 1941 until April 1944 while he was Regional Director of the Farm Security Administration (now Farmers Home Administration) in the States of Colorado, Wyoming, and Montana. He also had responsibilities in this field during a brief period as Assistant Administrator of FSA before he was appointed by President Roosevelt as Assistant Secretary of Agriculture in June 1944.

As Assistant Secretary, he carried general responsibility for work which the Department does directly and in cooperation with other agencies in flood control, development of water facilities, and management of public domain grazing and timber lands.

(more)

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In the latter part of the time that he was Assistant Secretary, Mr. Brannan was Vice Chairman of the Secretary's Policy and Program Committee. In this capacity he supervised preparation of the Department's recommendations to the Congress on long-range agricultural policy and programs. The Department recommended that present programs be continued and adapted, and new ones developed, to carry out a policy of organized, sustained, and realistic abundance.

Among the Department's program recommendations were encouragement of farmer cooperatives, rapid expansion of rural electrification, expanded soil conservation activity, modernization of the parity formula, a permanent flexible system of farm commodity price supports, and efforts to bring about rural-urban parity in health and education facilities, social security, housing, and other matters relating to standard of living.

Mr. Brannan has served as Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of Commodity Credit Corporation and has carried out several assignments in the international sphere. He was agricultural adviser to the United States Delegation at the San Francisco organizing conference of the United Nations; he is an adviser to the U. S. delegate to the U. N. Economic and Social Council; and he was appointed as a delegate to the Ninth International Conference of American States at Bogota, Colombia.

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Mr. Brannan was born in Denver on August 23, 1903. He was graduated from the University of Denver Law School in 1929, and now holds the following honorary degrees: Doctor of Laws from the University of Denver and Doctor of Science from the Colorado Agricultural and Mechanical College.

Until recently, he was part owner of a cattle and grain ranch near Eads, in Yuma County, Colorado.

His wife is the former Eda V. Seltzer of Denver to whom he was married in 1932. Their home in Washington is at 3921 Langley Court.

